

MARJORIE LITTLE

The ATS, formed in 1938, was the women's branch of the British Army during World War II. In 1949, it was reorganized and renamed the WRAC, a permanent unit for women serving in the Army.

My mother, Marjory Little, was born in 1920. She went to an Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU) aged 22 and was the only woman to come out with two pips (a Lieutenant).

She rose to the rank of Captain (same rank as Princess Elizabeth in the ATS) and served as Adjutant to male Commanding Officers (publishing the official orders of the unit, responsible for supervising clerks and other administrative personnel, submitting reports to higher headquarters, handling official correspondence, and maintaining records).

After the war she stayed in the Army until 1950 and was a Junior Commander. She always claimed she only left the army in 1956 as they changed the khaki uniform to green.

She was a similar size to Princess Elizabeth and had the nickname of 'Titch' due to her surname. She stood in for the Princess at the dress rehearsal of a Royal visit to inspect the troops [see photo overleaf]

On VE Day she was stationed in London so took great delight in the capital's celebrations.

Her service record during the war years was, as follows.

4th October 1939 - 2nd June 1940	~ Ripon, Yorks
5th June - 20th June 1940	~ West Hartlepool, Durham
21st June 1940 - 3rd February 1941	~ Guisborough, Yorks
14th February - 27th December 1941	~ Sedgefield, Durham
28th December 1941 - 11th May 1942	~ Newcastle on Tyne
12th May - 27th June 1942	~ Edinburgh
28th June 1942 - 28th April 1943	~ Arborfield, Berks
29th April 1943 - 2nd January 1945	~ Stromness, Orkney
3rd January 1945 - 12th February 1947	~ London

I have her uniforms - her formal military uniform jacket with lanyard, belted tunic, fastened with brass buttons, worn with a khaki full panel skirt (as worn at village events) and her khaki battledress, also worn with a skirt.

[written by Annie Brewster, Marjorie Little's daughter, May 2025]